2

September

Before closing this notebook and starting out for the south, I want to make a record of the month just past.

Read aloud, with Mile Siller, the first four acts of Hebbel's *Gyges und sein Ring* [27] and Leopold Andrian's *Garten des Erlebnis.* Derived much good from resuming my reading of Pascal's *Pensees* and *Opuscules* in the Brunschwicg edition (chiefly the *Prices pour demander d Dieu le bon usage des maladies}?** Finished the excellent *Kidnapped* of Stevenson. Corrected the proofs of *Paludes* (the German translation by Felix-Paul Greve) and of my *Essai sur Wilde* (English translation by Mfflard).

Whipped into shape the first forty pages of my novel.

It was one of the emptiest months in the year for me.

3

September

Finished yesterday Hebbel's *Gyges.* There is much to be said about it. What an interesting *parallel* could be written between this play and mine! I think again of the *Caves,* of the *Curieux malavis£* [29] and feel somewhat better than yesterday.

Received this morning a letter from Franz Blei with a telegram from the Vienna theater asking for the right to produce my *Roi Candaule.*

. . . and my will which complains of aging. If the wear were only constant and regular, if it attacked at the same time, and in like manner, both body and soul; but no, it proceeds by leaps and bounds; I am aging in bits, which become an object of amazement and sorrow for all the rest,

5 *September, 4 o'clock*

Fantastic glimpse of Lyon, in a sudden awakening, just as we were crossing the Rhone, Vague looming up of the gray

shadowy roofs under a sky the color of a rich fruit-juice* An acid coolness fills the air with a taste of red currants, and the Rhone draws through the scene its iridescent reflection of mingled shadow and dawn.

[27] This play (1856) deals with the same legend as Cide's *Le Roi Candaule* (1901). When the ktter was produced in Berlin in 1908 it was unfavorably compared with Hebbel's work.

[28] "Prayers to Ask God for the Good Use of IU Health/*

[28] Gide had not yet begun writing *Les Caves du Vatican (Lafcadio's Adventures)* , which was to appear in 1914. No such title as *Le Curieux indlavi$& (Misdirected Curiosity)* can be found among his works. Could it be a variant title for the *Caves?*